



TORRANCE LEADERS—George Vivo (right), former major league ball player, and Torrance Community Chest volunteer, accepts a baseball from Dodger president Walter O'Malley (center) at recent meeting of Catholic Maritime Club. Others present are (from left) Bert Lynn, Torrance Harbor Area Commerce and Industry Community Chest chairman; Long Beach City Councilman D. Pat Ahern, president of the Maritime Club, and Sam Levy.

Fear Animal Rabies in Late Part of This Year

Roy O. Gilbert, M. D.
Los Angeles County
Health Officer

Health officials fear that a local outbreak of animal rabies may occur in the late months of this year, since an insufficient number of the local dog population has received antirabic vaccine. When this protection falls below 70 to 80 per cent, health authorities feel that a rabies epidemic becomes a probability.

All warm-blooded animals are susceptible to rabies. Even if all dogs were vaccinated against the disease rabies would still be a threat to man's safety, for the wild life in any area is an ever-present source of the infection. This fact is of particular concern to residents of Los Angeles County as so many communities are adjacent to the foothills and arroyos.

When afflicted with rabies, wild animals lose their fear of man and will come to rural or urban areas that are normally avoided. They may then attack cats, dogs, livestock, rodents, or any other animals that are encountered. Because of close association, however, dogs are the chief source of rabies in man.

It is estimated that some 600,000 persons in the United States are bitten by dogs each year, and 5 to 10 per cent of these individuals must take the Pasteur treatment, either because the dog was rabid or was not found.

The first rabid bat was found in northern California in 1954. Since then, the number has slowly increased. This year 11 have been found to date, 3 as far south as Kern County. The only human death from rabies in Los Angeles County since 1949 occurred in June of this year, and this followed exposure to rabid bats in Mexico or Texas.

Heretofore, it was thought that the virus that causes rabies entered the body only through broken skin, usually from the bite of a rabid animal. Research workers have recently conjectured, however, that the virus might pass through the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth, even without an apparent break in the membranes. The disease attacks the brain and spinal cord and, once symptoms of illness develop, is 100 per cent fatal to both man and beast.

In man, the incubation period of the disease, which is the time the rabies virus takes to travel along the nerves to the brain, is usually from two to six weeks, though it may be as long as 9 months. In dogs, the incubation period is shorter, and this ordinarily permits a delay in the administration of Pasteur treatment to the victim while the dog is kept under observation for 15 days.

When there are extensive bites, particularly on the face and head, it may be thought advisable to start the Pasteur treatment at once.

Whenever the skin is broken following an animal bite, the wound should be washed thoroughly with hot soapy water for about 15 minutes. The victim should then be taken to a physician or an emergency hospital where additional treatment may be given as needed. The dog or other animal should be located if at all possible and health department officials notified at once.

Not all persons bitten by rabid animals develop rabies. Records show that 5 to 15 per cent of the persons bitten by rabid animals develop rabies when no treatment is given, whereas the number of rabies victims is reduced to about one per cent when the Pasteur treatment is administered.

A few years ago, victims of severe head and face bites inflicted by rabid animals often succumbed to the disease despite prompt administration of rabies vaccine. This was due to the fact that the infection was established before the vaccine could take effect. An antirabic serum has since been developed which gives more immediate protection, and Rabies is perhaps the most serious of the animal diseases to which man is vulnerable. For most people, vaccination of household pets, particularly dogs, is the best protection against it that is known.

A pamphlet on rabies will be mailed to anyone sending a request to the Division of Public

Health Education, L. A. County Health Dept., 241 N. Figueroa St., L. A. 12.

Youngster Caught in Sweet Mouse Trap

A candy machine proved to be something of a mousetrap for a sweet-toothed youngster, Thursday afternoon.

It took the fire department rescue squad and a man with a small hand 30 minutes to free Danny Mull, 5 of 156 Vista del Parque from a candy machine in El Retiro Park.

The youngster apparently stuck his hand up the dispensing slot and his arm was caught inside the vending machine. No amount of tugging could wedge the arm loose.

Finally firemen were summoned to the scene and pried the slot wide with a crow bar.

R. J. Ansbach, of 160 Vista del Parque, possessor of a slim hand, finally was able to reach up inside and free Danny's hand from the mechanism.

New Expectant Parent Class to Open Here

The fall series of expectant parents' classes will start Sept. 10, at 1 p.m., in the Torrance Health Center, 2300 Carson St., according to Dr. B. A. Kogan, District Health Officer.

The classes are an educational service of the County Health Department and are planned to help

parents meet the demands of parenthood. There are no registration or other fees for these classes.

Miss Aurora Martinez, Public Health Nurse, who has previously conducted the classes, will again be the instructor. Topics of discussion which are scheduled include: how the baby grows before birth, labor and delivery, care of the newborn, care of the mother after delivery, formula preparation, infant feeding, baby bath and care of the older child.

The film "Human Reproduction" has been planned for the Sept. 10 meeting and several other films on the care of the new mother and baby are scheduled for future sessions.

Albright to Be Honored for Toastmastering

Scott Albright of Torrance Toastmaster Club 695 will receive recognition by Ralph Smedley founder of toastmasters, at the Toastmasters International Convention at San Francisco this week. Hanley Rogers, president of Torrance TM, Robert White, past president of the club and John Hedlund will also attend. The convention will run from today through Saturday. One of the highlights will be the appearance of Toastmaster Frank Rax-

ter of TV and college fame who will be guest speaker at Thursday night's program.

Scott is one of the few toastmasters in the over 2,900 clubs in the world who has completed the beyond basic training phase of toastmaster. Over 7,000 men have applied for this advanced training project, 600 are currently active and only 180 have achieved certificates of achievement.

The convention will close with an International Night where many of the 30 countries outside of the U.S. will be represented. Torrance Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Fish Shanty at 7 p.m.

WINS HOLIDAY TRIP

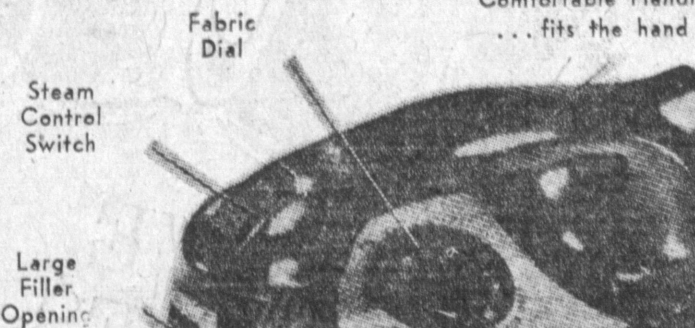
Mrs. Marion Wenker of 22224 Catskill Ave. is the winner of a holiday for two at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn in Las Vegas in the "What Do You Think?" contest conducted by radio station KBIG, Catalina.

California is the eighteenth safest state out of the fifty for accidents, according to the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council. This is a considerable improvement over previous years, but indicates that safety and accident prevention must be increased... not forgotten.

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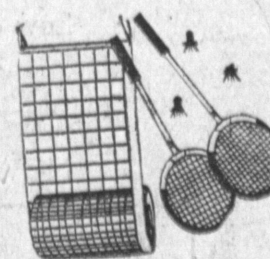
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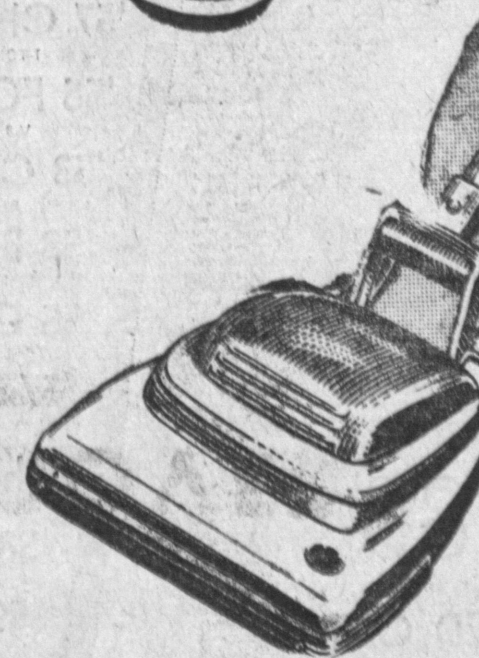
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